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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

July 18, 1952

Mr. Walter B. Smith, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Smith:

Two members of the faculty of [redacted] have been in touch with your organization during the last three weeks concerning a matter of very grave importance to all political scientists, universities, and to the particular people immediately involved. This matter concerns broadly, the relation of universities to the Central Intelligence Agency and, in a still more general way, the relation of security sensitive agencies to universities and their personnel. STAT

Perhaps by now you know the facts in the case. Last winter and spring Central Intelligence Agency contacted a number of top authorities in [redacted] to see whether or not they would agree to come to Washington for the summer months to advise with CIA. Among the six or eight people contacted [redacted] of our Department [redacted] of the [redacted] without any advance notice, and yet after having assured these men of summer employment, CIA canceled the program they were to participate in on the very day it was to begin. While CIA was able to contact [redacted] just before they were about to leave for Washington, [redacted] was not told until he had arrived in Washington. No explanation was given any of the three men. STAT

There are only two possible reactions that university people can have to this series of events. One is that CIA is a highly irresponsible agency which cannot be trusted to keep its word. No private business could ever get away with what your agency has done in this instance. All three of these gentlemen had canceled other summer plans which would have been remunerative for them so that they could help CIA out in what CIA itself explained was a very important mission. Without even a written apology, CIA, in effect, slaps these three scholars in the face and tells them to go fend for themselves as best they can on the day that the three month employment is to begin. This I submit is an irresponsible agency action of the worst sort. STAT

A second possible interpretation of CIA's action is available. It is that apparently three of the top scholars in the field are not to be trusted with security matters. This possible interpretation leads to consideration even more serious than the first. Following up his hunch that

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As I said above, [] has had a conference with certain CIA personnel. One of these granted him an hour conference on the matter of security clearance. During the course of this hour conference, the representative of CIA made contradictory statements on two or three occasions indicating that he was engaging in untruths with [] else that he was not able logically to follow what he was saying. [] ended up by threatening []

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[] with loss of reputation if we pressed this issue to the point of bringing in the U. S. Senators [] Now I ask you, Mr. Smith, is it the policy of the Central Intelligence Agency to threaten the reputation of any individual or organization that questions any of its decisions? Does the statement by this official of your agency also mean that the reputation of []

[] are also at stake? Just who is the CIA to ruin the reputation of a entire academic institution? Or is this simply a policy of CIA to scare off criticism on the part of the weak hearted?

I want you to know, Mr. Smith, that we consider this matter of very grave importance. We are not going to be satisfied with broad accusations on the part of the CIA. We are asking Senator Ferguson and Senator Moody to intervene in this case. We are also going to press this issue at the August meeting of the Executive Council of the American Political Science Association with a view to investigating security agencies and their relationships with universities and university personnel with a view to recommending that university personnel have nothing further to do with such agencies if the facts of this case remain unaltered. It is probable that personnel from all three universities involved will press the case together.

I, for one, hope that such action will not be necessary. I, for one, have defended the security precautions which CIA has taken in the past, and I have pushed the idea that people in our Department and

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in the [redacted] should
fill out security forms and should accept government contracts in
security sensitive areas so that they can contribute to their nation's
welfare at a time when its very security is threatened. If we can clear
up this case satisfactorily there will be no change in our policy in this
direction. I fervently hope that no change will be necessary.

Sincerely yours,

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[redacted]

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